

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Georgian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 18 Oct. 1950

SUBJECT Towns of Borzhomi and Akhaltsikh and Nearby
Industrial and Military Installations

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NO. OF ENCLS. 1
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Town of Borzhomi

1. Borzhomi (41-50N, 43-24E) is a resort town which is famous for its mineral waters, baths, and moderate climate. Mineral water is shipped in bottles by truck from Borzhomi to such places as Tbilisi. Members of the working class, officers of the armed forces, and high government officials visit Borzhomi from all parts of the USSR. Civilians predominate. The only military personnel stationed in Borzhomi is the militia. There is no transportation service of any kind except for the official cars of the resort administration. A former summer palace of the Tsars has been converted into a hotel for high government officials. The hotel area is enclosed by a fence and no one is granted admission without a special pass. The Borzhomi Park is located about 2 km west of the town. An evacuation center (evakuopunkt) for the deportation of local minority groups is located in Borzhomi.

Town of Akhaltsikh

2. The population of Akhaltsikh (41-38N, 42-59E) is mostly Armenian, and the majority is employed in the Ule (Vale) coal mines, 17 km west of Akhaltsikh, and in the thimolite (sic) mines near the village of Uraveli. The population is poorly dressed. There are no street cars, buses, or taxis in the town of Akhaltsikh, and passenger cars belong to government agencies. (See attachment for a plan of Akhaltsikh.)

Transportation

3. The highway between Akhaltsikh and Borzhomi is approximately seven meters wide, asphalted, and in good condition. Traffic on this road consists mostly of military and civilian trucks.
4. From the railroad station of Akhaltsikh a single track leads to the coal mines located around Ule.
5. The railroad fare from Akhaltsikh to Borzhomi is 11.75 rubles. The last train to Borzhomi and Zestafoni leaves Akhaltsikh at 1315 hours. A train leaves Akhaltsikh for Tbilisi at 0900.

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6. Railroad rolling stock in use at Akhaltsikh is badly worn. Locomotives are of the "Yelena" type.

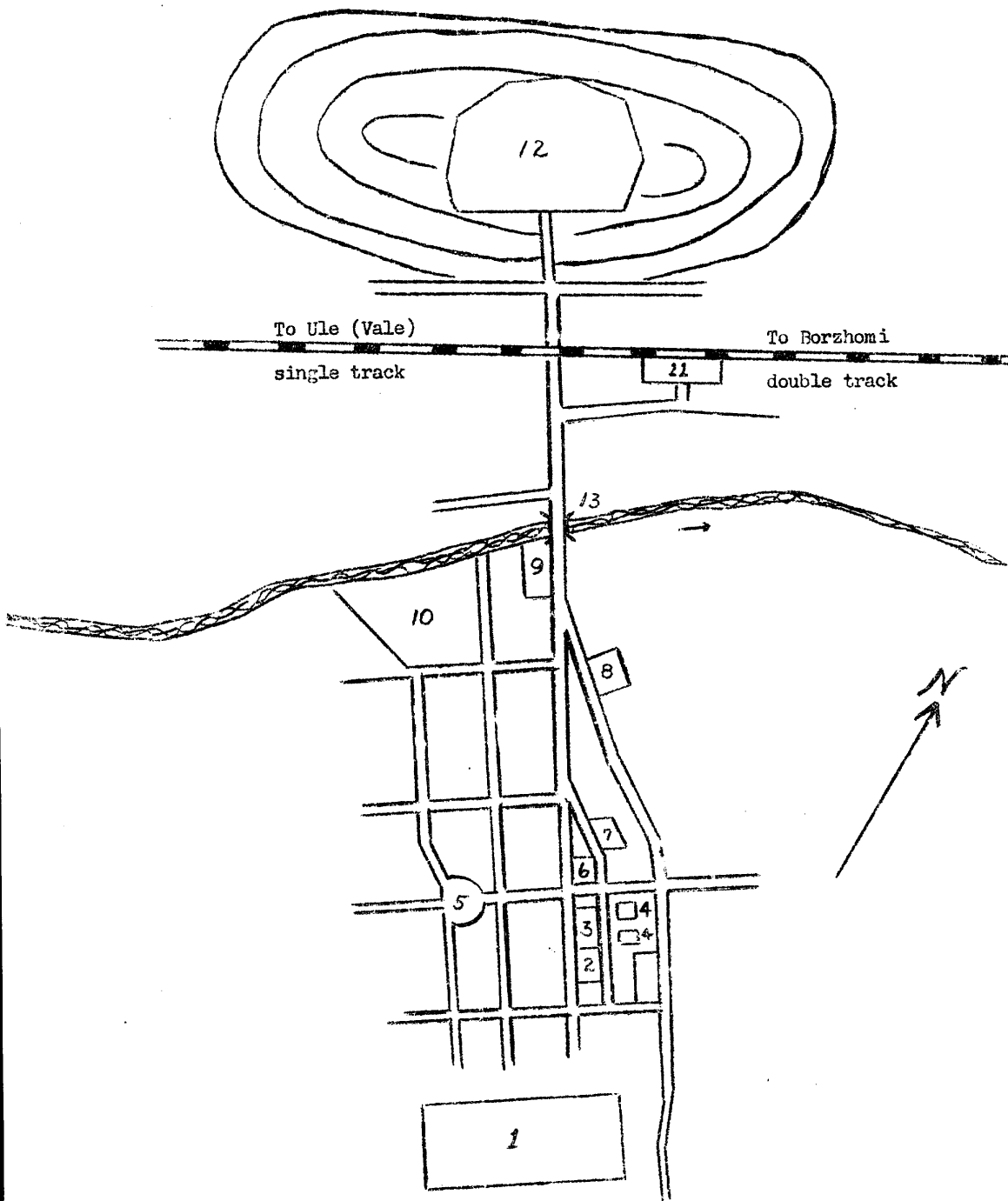
Industrial Installations

7. There are three large coal mines and an electric power station in Ule. The most productive of the three mines is Mine No. 2. Most of the labor for these mines comes from Akhaltsikh. Miners commute daily on special workers' trains.
8. A bucket conveyor runs from Uraveli to Akhaltsikh. However, source does not know whether thinolite mined near Uraveli is processed in Akhaltsikh or is shipped to another destination.

Military Installations

9. About one kilometer south of Akhaltsikh, on the west side of the highway leading to Uraveli, are several one- and two-storied barracks painted grey and covered with sheet-iron roofs. In late May 1950 sixteen T-34 tanks were counted in a tank park within the barracks area. The barracks quarter the 2nd Infantry Regiment (Strelkovy Polk), to which is attached a tank battalion and an anti-tank artillery battalion (divizion). (For location of these barracks, see attachment.)
10. At the foot of a hill near Akhaltsikh, "cavern-like structures" (buildings) serve as quarters for an MVD frontier regiment. No artillery, tanks, or AAA have been observed in the regimental area. (For location of these buildings, see attachment.)

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LEGEND

1. Quarters of the 2nd Infantry Regiment, tank battalion, and anti-tank artillery battalion
2. Headquarters of the above units
3. Hotel
4. Park
5. Market place
- 6 & 8. Restaurants
7. Dosharm
9. Town baths
10. Agricultural machinery pool
11. Railway station
12. Fort; quarters of MVD frontier regiment
13. Vehicle and foot bridge, wood and steel